



Director of
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National Intelligence Daily

Friday
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① POLAND: Regime Criticism of the Church

The government is increasing its attacks on the Church.

A radio commentator yesterday criticized "irresponsible action" by some younger priests. He claimed that they have encouraged their parishioners to resist local authorities' efforts to remove crosses from schools and public buildings, "even if shot at." The commentator also indirectly criticized the Pope by reading, and halfheartedly refuting, a letter accusing John Paul II of being a "sworn politician" overcome by hatred of Communism. In West Germany, an influential newspaper reported yesterday that a "reliable source in Warsaw" states that a campaign against the Church would begin in two to three weeks with a nationwide roundup of priests.

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Comment: The radio commentary, the second media attack on the Church in five days, apparently is part of an effort by hardliners in the regime to force moderates into a broader dispute with the Church. The hardliners envy the Church's power and prestige, and--with Solidarity out of the way--they may be confident that they can now put the Church in its place.

Premier Jaruzelski and other moderates will resist taking such a course because they realize that it would seriously risk a civil war. They have long counted on the efforts of the Church to maintain calm and know that many in the military are among the faithful.

Attacks on the Church will put increasing pressure on Archbishop Glemp to toughen his position. He will deliver his next major sermon on 26 February, but probably will first take a private reading from party moderates on the regime's intentions.

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Warsaw Pact Exercise

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The East German attache further indicated yesterday that Polish military participation may be limited. He claimed that the Poles used their entire 1982 fuel allotment during the long road marches to martial law deployment areas and that many pieces of combat equipment remain in disrepair. According to this attache, only limited numbers of East German troops will participate--apparently not more than 50 kilometers inside Poland. [REDACTED]

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The Soviet military attache in Warsaw earlier this week also stated that an exercise to be held next month would consist of field training followed by command staff activity. [REDACTED]

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Comment: It is not unusual for exercises such as the one described by the Soviet attache to be held during March. The early release of information concerning it suggests, however, that the Soviets are taking pains to depict it as nonthreatening. [REDACTED]

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Even so, it likely will be interpreted by the Polish people as a signal to submit and by the regime to take a tougher stance. In fact, this probably is the Soviet intent. [REDACTED]

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⑥ TAIWAN-CHINA: Softball Diplomacy

2/3 Taiwan's unprecedented decision--apparently made by President Chiang Ching-kuo--to invite China's team to participate in the international women's softball tournament on the island in July follows considerable debate and uneasiness about its implications for Taipei's political competition with Beijing. [REDACTED]

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5/6 Teams from Taiwan and China began competing in third countries last year, but usually under Olympic rules, which ban Taiwan from using its flag. Neither side has sent a team to territory controlled by the other since the Kuomintang government arrived on Taiwan in 1949. [REDACTED]

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7/8 The rules of the International Softball Federation, which allow only the host country to fly its national flag during the tournament, give Taiwan an ideal opportunity to appear more flexible. Beijing, originally critical of the Federation's rules, confirmed yesterday that it will participate. [REDACTED]

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7 Comment: Complicated decisions regarding such issues as visas and travel routes still must be worked out before July. These questions, plus the propaganda certain to surround the event, could cause Beijing to back out. [REDACTED]

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4 If the Chinese team fails to show up, Taiwan will have demonstrated a new and more pragmatic approach without undermining its fundamental opposition to Beijing's reunification plans. Beijing, on the other hand, will try to link Taipei's invitation with the reunification proposals, one of which is to increase sports contacts. [REDACTED]

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